

Executive Officer's Report

Prepared by Susan M. Geranen

May 2007

New DCA Director. The Department of Consumer Affairs has a new Director, Carrie Lopez. Ms Lopez comes to us from Coro Southern California, where she served as Executive Director overseeing development strategies and programs. Coro is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that trains and prepares civic leaders. Before being promoted to Executive Director, she served as Director of Programs and Training for Coro.

In addition, Ms Lopez is the Secretary of HOPE, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to fostering the professional growth of Latinas, and she is the co-founder and current Chair of HOPE's Leadership Institute. She has also served as a special advisor to the Tribal Council of the San Luis Rey Mission Indians on federal government issues.

Ms Lopez has extensive experience in federal, state, and local government. From 1996 to 1997, she worked for the City of San Diego as an organizational effectiveness specialist. Prior to that, she served as a Community Relations Manager for the Pacific Gateway Group. She has also served as a program specialist for the Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Restructuring Now (LEARN), and was a legislative aide for State Senator Nicholas Petris.

She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Davis and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. We anticipate that she will be starting at the DCA before the end of April.

Legislation. Senate Bill (SB) 969, co-sponsored by the California Veterinary Medical Association and Banfield, the Pet Hospital, and authored by Senator Sam Anestad, is a proposal to authorize unlicensed assistants to administer controlled substances under indirect supervision and to amend the requirements for reciprocity in California. The Veterinary Medical Board (Board) has prepared a bill analysis listing several concerns with the proposed language and has taken a support if amended position. The Board is working with the CVMA and the consultant from the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, Bill Gage, to try and resolve those concerns. The Senate B&P Committee hearing on the bill is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the State Capitol.

The Board was unable to obtain an author for its fee legislation for 2007 and that will have a significant impact on Board projects and its ability to take on new issues in the coming year. The Board will be discussing downsizing and expenditure priorities at its meeting on May 2, 2007.

Regulations - RVT Job Tasks, Controlled Substances and Fee Regulations. The rulemaking files for these three files are pending with the Department of Finance. Due to delays in the approval process, the estimated effective dates are sometime in June 2007. The anticipated effective date for collecting the new fees has changed to August or September 1, 2007, depending on the actual effective date. The fee change will be on the renewal notices, posted on the web site and published in the spring/summer newsletter.

VMB Newsletter. The Summer 2007 VMB newsletter is on track thanks to Assistant Executive Officer, Jennifer Thornburg. Ms Thornburg coordinates the article writing efforts in-house and then works with publication unit at the DCA to do the setup and production portions of the newsletter. Thank you, Jennifer, for keeping us on track with this key communication project.

Physical Therapy/Animal Rehabilitation. On behalf of the Board, I attended the February 9, 2007, meeting of the Board of Physical Therapy to discuss forming a task force for purposes of determining the whether licensed physical therapists should play a role in providing rehabilitation treatments to animals. It is up to the Board to decide whether to form a task force for further discussion on the topic.

Diversion Evaluation Committee (DEC). A meeting is scheduled with the DEC members following their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 11, 2007, for the purpose of discussing and evaluating the Board's Diversion program. The June meeting is being held to provide the Board with additional information on its Diversion Program.

Strategic Plan. The Board will be reviewing its Strategic Plan and the updated information developed during its strategic planning meeting in March 2007.

Animal Care Conference 2007. The 2007 Animal Care Conference is scheduled in conjunction with the April CVMA meeting from Saturday to Tuesday, April 21-24, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza downtown Sacramento. The Executive Officer will be representing the Board in a panel discussion scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2007 as a part of a panel discussion on regulating shelters and parameters of shelter medicine.

California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). Dr. Roach and I are attending the CVMA's Board of Governor's meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2007. Board members and the Executive Officer are available to attend local and state association meetings on request and as funds are available.

RVT Committee

The Registered Veterinary Technician Committee (RVTC) is holding its regular meeting from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Two of the items up for discussion are a grandfather clause for eligibility for the RVT State Board Examination and an update to the existing eligibility categories for the RVT examination.

The RVTC and Board are holding a joint meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. to evaluate candidates and select two new members for the RVTC. The July 2007 meeting will be the first one for the two new members. We are sad to see Alex Henderson, RVT, and Nancy Ehrlich, RVT, two of the original RVTC, come to the end of their terms. Thank you, Alex and Nancy, for nine years of faithful service to the RVTC and to the Board.

smg